

Dangers in Your Home

Lead poisoning affects nearly 250,000 young children in the United States every year, causing behavioral problems, learning disabilities, decreased intelligence, and other health problems. Because lead poisoned children don't necessarily appear sick, the Vermont Department of Health requires that all children be tested for lead in their blood at ages 1 and 2. Although deteriorated paint is the most common cause of lead exposure in children, children can also be poisoned by other sources such as soil containing lead, lead in water pipes, lead-glazed ceramic dishware, and other consumer goods. The only way to be absolutely sure your children are safe is to have them tested.

Because young children spend the majority of their time at home, they are susceptible to other housing-related health problems such as asthma, allergies, injuries, and poisoning. Many studies now show a clear link between housing condition and health in both adults and children. To understand whether you may have hidden dangers in your home, ask yourself:

- Is the air in my home clean and healthy?
- Does anyone in my home have asthma?
- Does anyone in my home have allergies?
- Do I know the signs of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning? Do I have a CO detector?
- Is there lead in my paint?
- Is the tap water safe to drink?
- Do I use household products with chemicals that can make us sick?
- Are there insect or animal pests in my home?

Using the right solutions to address these problems can make your home much safer and healthier.

How Do I Apply?

You can download an application for technical and financial assistance to address lead and other household hazards at: www.vhcb.org/healthyhomes/leadappservices.html
If you do not have internet access, please call (802)-828-5064 or (800) 290-0527 or contact us by mail at:

Vermont Healthy Homes Program
58 East State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Other Lead Safety Resources

Vermont Department of Health

A variety of health related information.
(800) 439-8550
www.healthvermont.gov/enviro/lead

Vermont Lead Safety Project

Education and HEPA vacuum sales. Phone consultations regarding lead hazards, health concerns, and resource referral.
(802) 247-5920

Parks Place Community Resource Center Lead Safe & Healthy Homes

Training and education services. Serving Windsor, Windham, Bennington and Rutland Counties
(802) 463.9927 x. 208
www.parksplacevt.org/programs

Burlington Lead Program

Lead paint hazard reduction for Burlington and Winooski residents.
(802) 865-5323
www.burlingtonvt.gov/CEDO/Housing/Lead-Paint/Dangers-of-Lead/

Lead Safe Vermont

Trainings and information for contractors, landlords and homeowners. www.leadSAFEvermont.org

Vermont Healthy Homes Program



Bob Eddy photo

Making homes and apartments safer and healthier by providing financial and technical assistance to address lead paint and other household hazards.

802-828-5064

a program of the

Vermont Housing & Conservation Board

58 East State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

www.vhcb.org/healthyhomes

Vermont Healthy Homes Program

The program works to reduce lead and other home health and safety hazards by providing technical and financial assistance to landlords and homeowners throughout the state.



A window well with deteriorating lead paint—a common site for lead poisoning.

Program Goals

- To reduce the exposure of Vermont children to lead paint and other hazards
- To increase public awareness about the hazards of lead paint and other common home health and safety problems
- To promote safe and effective methods of reducing these hazards
- To provide money to homeowners, landlords, and non-profit agencies to reduce health & safety hazards
- To identify and address other housing related health and safety hazards

Services Available

The following services are available at no cost to the owners of eligible properties:

- Testing of all painted surfaces
- Risk assessment and specification development
- Bidding assistance and project management
- Dust sampling and lab analysis
- Lead Poisoning Safety Education

Eligibility

Homes or apartments constructed before 1978 with at least one bedroom may be eligible for assistance. Highest priority is given to properties occupied by lead poisoned children and where “home-based” day care centers operate. Properties must generally be in good repair and have no serious structural problems. If located in a flood hazard area, the property must have flood insurance. Additional restrictions apply:

Rental Units:

- The tenant’s income cannot exceed 80% of the median income for the area.
- Owner must rent to income-eligible family for 3 years.

Owner-Occupied Homes:

- The homeowner’s income cannot exceed 80% of the median income for the area.
- Must be primary residence.
- Young children must be present

**For more information,
call (802) 828-5064 or visit:
www.vhcb.org/healthyhomes**



Home following completion of lead paint hazard reduction work.

Loans and Grants

A combination of grants and interest-free, deferred loans (payable upon sale of the property) are provided to pay for lead hazard reduction work. Under certain circumstances, up to 50% of the deferred loan can be forgiven.

Apartments: Each apartment is eligible for a total of up to \$15,000 with up to \$4,500 as a grant and and up to \$10,500 as a deferred loan.

Homeowners are eligible to receive a total of up to \$25,000 with up to \$10,000 as a grant and up to \$15,000 as a deferred loan. Depending on the cost of the project and the availability of funds, owners may be required to complete some finish work such as final painting.